

U.S.S.N. 10/783,668

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 3, with the following paragraph:

Occasionally, however, as with any manufacturing process, the process proves less than perfect. When this occurs, the weld 4 between the tab 2 and cell 1 may not be sufficiently strong. The operator facing this scenario has two options: scrap the bad cell, resulting in increased cost to his employer, or rework the faulty cell-tab assembly. The latter is generally the chosen option, as manufacturers can ill afford to scrap expensive cells due to faulty weld joints.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 21, with the following paragraph:

The machine 300 includes a base member ~~300~~ 301 for supporting the various elements of the machine. The base member 301 may be mounted on rubber feet 302 to prevent motion while in action. Disposed atop the base member 301 is a means for holding a battery cell 303. The means for holding a battery cell 303 includes a fixed block 304 for accommodating at least one battery cell. The fixed block 304 includes a recess 309 for holding a battery cell. The recess 309 of this exemplary embodiment is suited for holding cylindrical cells, and is thusly cut as a "V" shaped groove. It will be obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art having the benefit of this disclosure that other shapes could be substituted for the V-shaped recess to accommodate cells of other shapes, including rectangles, semi-circles, and squares.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 9, with the following paragraph:

As stated, the moveable belt 305 passes through an aperture ~~304~~ 310 in the fixed block 304, and is coupled to a moveable support 307. The moveable support 307, and therefore the attached moveable belt 305, are spring loaded against the fixed block 304

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by at least one coil spring 309 323. The coil spring 309 323 pulls the moveable belt 305 toward the recess 309 when the spring is at rest. A lever 308 coupled to the moveable support 307 allows an operator to open the closed loop 306 by pulling on the lever 308. When the lever 308 is released, the coil spring 309 323 causes the moveable belt 305 to again pull back into the aperture 310.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 6, with the following paragraph:

The cutting means 312 is mechanically coupled to a sliding member 311. The sliding member travels on rails ~~312~~ 318, and moves parallel to the base member 301. A removable blade carrier 315 secures the blade to the sliding member 311 by bolts or other fastening members. The sliding member 311 is actuated by a main lever 316. The main lever 316 is rotatably coupled to the sliding member 311 by a gear assembly 317. Essentially, when the main lever 316 is rotated, the gear assembly 317 actuates, thereby causing the sliding member 311, and thus the cutting member 312, to travel parallel to the base member 301 along the rails 318. It is this parallel travel that allows the blade of the cutting member 312 to pass across at least one surface of the battery cell, thereby removing debris. In other words, actuation of the lever 316 actuates the cutting means 312, thereby causing the cutting means 312 to pass along one end of the battery cell.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 11, with the following paragraph:

Referring now to FIG. 4, illustrated therein is a top, plan view of a machine in accordance with the invention. A second spring 400 can be seen in this view. Two springs 309 323, 400 are useful in that it keeps the travel of the moveable support 307 uniform relative to the fixed member 304.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 15 with the following paragraph:

One inserts a battery cell into the machine 300 by pulling the lever 308 in the X direction 401, thereby opening the closed loop 306. When the battery is inserted into now expanded closed loop 306 of the means for holding a battery 303, the amount of insertion is limited by the leveling means 403 coupled to the cutting means 312. Once the battery cell contacts the leveling means 403, the user releases the lever 308, wherein the springs ~~309~~ 323, 400 cause the moveable support to move in the -X direction 402.